

REMARKS:

- 1) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, please **indicate the acceptance of the drawings** originally filed on July 3, 2003.
- 2) Referring to item 12) of the Office Action Summary, please **acknowledge the foreign priority claim and receipt of the priority document**, which was filed herein on October 8, 2003.
- 3) The Examiner's attention is directed to applicant's second Information Disclosure Statement being filed together with the present Response. Please consider the IDS, and **return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the IDS Form PTO-1449 of November 3, 2005.**
- 4) A few minor editorial amendments have been made in the specification, without introducing any new matter. Also, a new paragraph has been added at page 6, between lines 5 and 6 of the specification. This new paragraph merely provides direct literal support in the written description for the subject matter of claim 16, with further reference to the heater 1B disclosed at page 4 line 13. Thus, the added paragraph does not introduce any new matter. Entry of the specification amendments is respectfully requested.

- 5) The claims have been amended as follows.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior claims 1 + 2 + 3.

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to update the dependency in view of the amendment of claim 1 and cancellation of claim 3.

Claims 4, 5 and 12 to 16 have been amended editorially for streamlining and conforming the claim language, without introducing any new matter. Claim 16 as amended further recites features based on original claim 16 in connection with the disclosure of heater 1B at page 4 line 13 of the specification.

Claims 2, 3 and 19 to 25 have been canceled.

The claim amendments do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.

- 6) After the present amendment, claims 1, 4 to 11, 15, 16, 18, 26 and 27 read on the elected invention/group and species. Claims 12 to 14 and 17 remain withdrawn from consideration, as directed to non-elected species. Withdrawn claims 12 to 14 and 17 depend from generic claims. Thus, if the elected claims are found allowable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin, consider and allow the dependent claims 12 to 14 and 17. The non-elected apparatus claims 19 to 25 have been canceled.

- 7) Referring to the middle of page 2 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1 to 11, 15, 16, 18, 26 and 27 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement under 35 USC §112(1) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a step of "anodically oxidizing" the filtered water. This step is disclosed in the original written description, e.g. at page 4 line 23 to page 5 line 2. As a particular example, the anodic oxidizing of the water can be carried out by an anodic oxidizer 9 as schematically shown in Fig. 1. As demonstrated by several prior art references of record, persons of ordinary skill in the art know what "anodic oxidizing" refers to, and also know how to carry out such a process. Generally, this refers to oxidizing the water on an anode in an electrochemical process. More particularly, this can be carried out with commercially available equipment known for carrying out anodic oxidation, for example electrolysis cells or electro-dialysis elements. For example, refer to the Almon and Beer patents cited by the Examiner. A patent application does not need to specifically disclose details of conventionally known method steps or suitable equipment for carrying out such method steps. Thus, in view of the prior art, a person of ordinary skill would have been enabled to carry out the step of anodically oxidizing the water as disclosed in the present specification.

Regarding claim 16, the claim language has been clarified, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been able to carry out the recited control of the water temperature. Particularly, a person of ordinary skill in the art generally knows how to specify or define a temperature range in a central processing unit, and to use a sensor for sensing the temperature of water, and to use a water heater controlled by the processing unit so as to heat the water to maintain its temperature in the defined temperature range. Such aspects, in a general context,

are within the scope of ability and knowledge of an ordinarily skilled artisan. Thus, the disclosure of the present specification at page 4 lines 13 to 14, page 6 line 25 to page 7 line 5 and page 8 lines 16 to 21 would have enabled a person of ordinary skill to carry out the features of present claim 16. The specification has also been supplemented in this regard, as mentioned above.

For the above reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 to 11, 15, 16, 18, 26 and 27 under 35 USC §112(1).

- 8) Referring to page 3 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 15 and 16 as indefinite under 35 USC §112(2) has been taken into account in the present amendment of claims 15 and 16. It is respectfully submitted that the features thereof are now clearly and definitely recited in a manner that can be understood by a person of ordinary skill. Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.
- 9) Referring to the second-to-last paragraph on page 8 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in prior claims 3 to 5 and 11 is appreciated. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of prior claim 3 and intervening claim 2. Thus, amended independent claim 1 (based on prior claims 1 + 2 + 3), as well as its dependent claims 4 to 18, 26 and 27, should now be allowable.

- 10) Referring to pages 3 to 8 of the Office Action, the several obviousness rejections of claims 1, 2, 6 to 10, 15, 16, 18 and 26 have been obviated by the present amendment. Independent claim 1 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of prior claim 3, which had not been rejected. Thus, the rejections cannot be maintained against claim 1 or its dependent claims. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.
- 11) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1, 4 to 18, 26 and 27, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claus HOFFJANN et al.  
Applicant

WFF:kd/4538  
Enclosures:  
Term Extension Request  
Form PTO-2038  
IDS, Form PTO-1449  
4 references  
2 English abstracts  
postcard

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail, in an envelope addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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